admitted on relaxed criteria. In case of the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) for Undergraduate admission, if all the reserved seats in SC/ST category are not filled, other SC/ST candidates failing to qualify even with the relaxed admission norms but satisfying certain other minimum requirements are offered admission to a preparatory course of one year duration. This course attempts to prepare the students in Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and English. On successful completion of the course, the students are offered direct admission to the undergraduate programmes against the unfilled quota of seats for that year. 3% seats are reserved for PD (Persons with Disabilities) candidates (including leprosy cured) as specified by the Government, who are otherwise fit to pursue the course and qualify JEE with relaxed norms relevant to this category. Two seats are also available for preferential allotment of courses in each Institute for children of defence/ paramilitary personnel killed or permanent disabled in action during war or. peacetime operations (DS Category). To avail this preferentipl allotment, candidates must qualify for admission in the general category.

The NTs are autonomous institutions and such decisions are taken by their Governing Bodies taking into account availability of infrastructure. Not only for undergraduate but also for the Post-Graduate and Ph.D programmes, the trend is of an increase in intake due to introduction of new programmes, at all levels, including short duration courses/ programmes for optimal utilisation of existing resources. NT's are encourage to expand their existing infrastructure and to increase intake within the available resources.

Marriageable age of girls

*273. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) Government's reaction to the judgment of the Delhi High Court declaring legality of the marriageable age of 15 years of girls; *

(b) what is the present provision for marriageable age of a boy and a girl;

(c) the likely social consequences, health scenario and population problems as **a** result thereof; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) There is nothing in the judgment of Delhi High Court relating to the case of

Ms. Shikha Sharma suggesting or directing for making 15 years as the marriageable age of girls.

(b) At present the marriageable age for a boy is 21 years and for a girl is 18 years;

(c) and (d) Questions do not arise.

Implementation of schemes in Goa

*274. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the existing schemes of his Ministry in force in the country;

(b) the schemes in force in Goa; and

(c) the financial assistance given to the State Government for various schemes during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) The following schemes are being implemented by the Ministry of Urban Development for development of cities and towns in the country:—

(i) Infrastructure Development in Mega Cities.

(ii) Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT).

(iii) Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP).

(iv) Lumpsum provision for the projects/schemes for the benefit of North Eastern States including Sikkim.

(v) Solid Waste Management and Drainage in ten selected airfield towns.

(vi) Urban Transport Planning.

In addition, Government of India has recently approved Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) consisting of two Sub-Missions *viz.* (i) Urban Infrastructure and Governance and (ii) Basic Services to the Urban poor, to be implemented by Ministry of Urban Development and Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation. An outlay of Rs. 5467.17 crore, as Additional Central Assistance for the Mission, exists in the Annual Budget 2005-06 of Ministry of Finance.